

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,
Masnach a Materion Gwledig**

**Economy, Trade and
Rural Affairs Committee**

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Ian Andrew
Chief Executive
British Pest Control Association

11 May 2023

Agriculture (Wales) Bill – Proposals to prohibit the use of glue traps in Wales

Dear Ian

Thank you for your letter which I received on 3 May 2023 in respect of the Agriculture (Wales) Bill ("the Bill"). This was also copied to other Members of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

In your letter you expressed concerns about the factual accuracy of evidence provided by the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales ("the Minister") in respect of the proposed ban on glue traps.

These concerns relate both to oral evidence given by the Minister and to written evidence provided to us by letter. These include the use of glue traps by local authorities, their use by professional pest controllers, the support for a ban on the use of glue traps and the potential for the introduction of a licensing scheme.

The Committee received both oral and written evidence from the Minister, in good faith. The Minister's oral evidence from September and November 2022 has been available on the public record since then, along with copies of correspondence sent and received in relation to the glue trap provisions in the Bill.

The Committee has received a large volume of evidence, both written and orally, from a variety of stakeholders, in addition to the evidence received from the Minister. We have considered this information in detail to produce our report, and the recommendations within it. In addition, we have sought further information where we consider that this would be helpful to allow us to properly

consider the Bill. As the record shows, the Committee made efforts to gather further information at Stage 1 about concerns you raised with the Committee when you provided us with oral evidence. This followed your participation in the Welsh Government's consultation exercise about these glue trap provisions in 2021, the results of which Members also considered as part of their scrutiny. We also wrote to Public Health Wales on 11 November 2022 to find out further information about the use of glue traps in public buildings across Wales.

I note that you received an embargoed copy of the Committee's Stage 1 report on the Bill on 25 January, in advance of publication on 27 January, and have had ample opportunity in the intervening three months or so to raise any concerns about the evidence received, either with me as Committee Chair, or indeed with the Minister directly. I am also aware that the clerking team have made you aware of the Senedd's legislative scrutiny process and how to follow the Bill's progress via the Senedd website and other channels. It is therefore somewhat disappointing that you have chosen to raise your concerns at such a late stage in the legislative process.

The Committee's report devotes more than four pages to explanation and analysis of our scrutiny and the evidence received in relation to the glue trap provisions in Part 5 of the Bill. I am confident that Committee Members gave detailed consideration to all the evidence received and that the report accurately reflects the balance of views from stakeholders, and Members' conclusions having weighed up the evidence, along with clear references to the evidence sources considered.

The evidence the Minister has provided, the information published in the explanatory memorandum to the Bill, and the accuracy of such information, is a matter for the Minister as the Member in charge of the Bill. I note that you have copied your letter to the Minister, who also has an opportunity to respond to you directly should she wish to

Kind regards,



Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

CC:

Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Elin Jones MS, Llywydd

The Rt Hon David TC Davies MP, Secretary of State for Wales



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